

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /057 W  
-----012605 230706Z /17

R 230600Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5896  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4707

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, BG  
SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF GOVERNMENT HOUSING ALLOWANCE BEGUN

REFS: A. DACCA A-113, B. DACCA 3650

1. THE BDG ANNOUNCED AUGUST 21 THE FORMATION OF SIX  
MILITARY INVESTIGATIVE TEAMS TO EXAMINE EXCESSIVE  
HOUSING ALLOWANCES GIVEN TO THE EMPLOYEES OF AUTONOMOUS  
AGENCIES AND THE NATIONALIZED SECTOR CORPORATION AS  
INCOME SUPPLEMENTS IN VIOLATION OF A 1975 GOVERNMENT ORDER.  
THE SIX INVESTIGATIVE TEAMS WILL BE HEADED BY THE SECOND  
TIER IN THE MILITARY. FOR EXAMPLE, GENERAL ERSHAD, DEPUTY  
CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF, WILL HEAD THE INSPECTION TEAM FOR AGENCIES  
UNDER THE MINISTRIES OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE; GENERAL MIR  
SHAWKAT ALI, GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING, 9TH DIVISION, WILL  
LEAD THE TEAM INVESTIGATING AGENCIES UNDER AGRICULTURE  
AND JUTE; AND GENERAL DASTGIR, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF  
BANGLADESH RIFLES, WILL DO THE SAME FOR THOSE UNDER  
INDUSTRIES. THE OTHER THREE TEAMS WILL BE HEADED BY SENIOR  
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NAVAL AND AIR FORCE OFFICERS. ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT  
STATEMENT, WHERE EXCESSIVE ALLOWANCES WERE GIVEN, REPAYMENT  
WILL HAVE TO BE MADE OVER A 48-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING  
DECEMBER 1, 1977.

2. ON THE SAME DAY THE INVESTIGATION WAS ANNOUNCED, NEW  
AND IDENTICAL HOUSING ALLOWANCES BOTH FOR PERSONS EMPLOYED

DIRECTLY BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THOSE UNDER AUTONOMOUS AGENCIES WERE PUBLISHED. THE RECOMMENDED ALLOWANCES HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO GENERAL ZIA IN MAY AS PART OF THE PAY AND SERVICES COMMISSION REPORT ON THE REORGANIZATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE PERSONNEL.

3. COMMENT: AN INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED DEFIANCE OF GOVERNMENT ORDER REGARDING HOUSING ALLOWANCES, COUPLED WITH NEW ALLOWANCES BRINGING EMPLOYEES OF THE AUTONOMOUS AGENCIES IN LINE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, CAN BE SEEN AS A MEANS FOR ZIA TO EXERT INCREASED CONTROL OVER THE BUREAUCRACY. BY ASSIGNING HIS MOST SENIOR MILITARY COLLEAGUES TO HEAD INVESTIGATIVE TEAMS, ZIA IS SIGNALLING THE BUREAUCRACY THAT HE IS SERIOUS ABOUT REORGANIZATION.

4. EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT IS THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ZIA HAS GIVEN SPECIFIC CIVILIAN RESPONSIBILITY TO GENERALS ERSHAD, DASTGIR AND SHAWKAT AND THE OTHERS. WITH ERSHAD AND DASTGIR, ZIA HAD HAD A DISPUTE EARLIER THIS SUMMER WHEN THE TWO REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EXPANDED CABINET UNLESS ZIA JOIN THEM IN RESIGNING THEIR MILITARY POSITIONS (REF B). WHILE ZIA CONTINUES TO REGARD AS ESSENTIAL HIS DUAL ROLE AS PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF, HE MAY ALSO BE ANXIOUS TO GIVE EACH OF THE GENERALS A FEELING THAT THEY, TOO, HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CIVILIAN AS WELL AS THE MILITARY RULE OF THE COUNTRY.  
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5. IN A CONVERSATION AUGUST 23 COMMODORE M.A. KHAN, DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF, ONE OF THE INVESTIGATORS, TOLD POLCOUNSELOR THAT, ALTHOUGH NOTHING HAD BEEN SPECIFICALLY STATED, HE FELT THAT FURTHER USES OF MILITARY "MONITORS" MIGHT BE EXPECTED. HE NOTED THAT THE MLA HAD SO FAR CONCERNED ITSELF WITH LAW AND ORDER (EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT ZIA, AVM MAHMOOD AND ADMIRAL KHAN WERE ALSO ADVISORS) AND HAD PERMITTED THE CIVIL SERVICE TO CONTINUE IN "ITS OLD WAYS OF INEFFICIENCY AND RED TAPE." THE CIVIL SERVICE HAD HAD ITS CHANCE AND WAS NOT DOING THE JOB WELL. NOW, HE THOUGHT, THE MILITARY (ASSUMED BY HIM TO BE MORE EFFICIENT) WOULD HAVE TO STEP IN TO A GREATER EXTENT TO GET THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION MOVING.  
BERGESEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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